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Yield Forecasts For Kentucky Crops Improve

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the September Crop Production report today, showing increased yield forecasts for field crops.

“Based on producer reports, soybean, corn and tobacco yield forecasts increased from a month ago,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Rainfall in the middle of August was very timely, improving an already good situation. The soybean yield forecast September 1 is 57 bushels per acre, which if realized, would break the current record high yield of 53 bushels per acre.”

Soybean production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 119 million bushels, up 8 percent from the August forecast and up 16 percent from 2017. Yield was estimated at 57.0 bushels per acre, up 4.0 from last month. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 2.09 million acres, up 150,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.69 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the August forecast but up 7 percent from last year. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 52.8 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from last month but up 3.7 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 88.9 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but down 1 percent from 2017.

“Reports from early corn harvest are suggesting state-wide yields will be better than the five year average of 167 bushels per acre,” Knopf added. **Corn** production in **Kentucky** is forecast at 214 million bushels, up 1 percent from the August forecast but down 1 percent from the 2017 crop. Yield was estimated at 177 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from last month and down 1.0 bushel from last year. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.21 million acres, down 10,000 acres from 2017. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 14.8 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 2 percent from last year's record production. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 181.3 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels from last month and up 4.7 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but down 1 percent from 2017.

Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast at 106 million pounds, up 1 percent from the August forecast but down 18 percent from 2017. Yield was projected at 2,000 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from last month but down 50 pounds from the 2017 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 53,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year's crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 129 million pounds, down 20 percent from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 64,800 acres, down 20 percent from 2017. Yields were expected to average 1,996 pounds per acre, up 19 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 35.2 million pounds, unchanged from the August forecast but down 7 percent from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 19.4 million pounds, up 20 percent from the August forecast last year.

CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, September 1
KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018 ²	2017	2018 ¹		2017	2018
						Aug 1	Sep 1 ²		
	KENTUCKY								
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn ³	1,320	1,310	1,220	1,210	178.0	175.0	177.0	217,160	214,170
Soybeans ³	1,950	2,100	1,940	2,090	53.0	53.0	57.0	102,820	119,130
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	480	460	310	350	77.0	66.0	--	23,870	23,100
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	80,500	71,200	2,277	2,165	2,256	183,300	160,640
Burley	--	--	63,000	53,000	2,050	1,900	2,000	129,150	106,000
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	11,500	11,000	3,300	3,200	3,200	37,950	35,200
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,000	7,200	2,700	2,700	2,700	16,200	19,440
	UNITED STATES								
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn ³	90,167	89,128	82,703	81,770	176.6	178.4	181.3	14,604,067	14,826,690
Soybeans ³	90,142	89,557	89,522	88,862	49.1	51.6	52.8	4,391,553	4,693,135
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	32,696	32,732	25,291	24,816	50.2	47.9	--	1,269,437	1,189,199
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	321,470	304,980	2,209	2,130	2,088	710,161	636,772
Burley	--	--	81,500	64,800	1,977	1,905	1,996	161,140	129,360
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	19,270	18,880	3,089	3,029	3,060	59,531	57,772
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	7,600	10,000	2,658	2,620	2,616	20,200	26,160

¹ Commodities with estimates not available are denoted by "--". ² Forecasted. ³ Area harvested represents grain. ⁴ Includes area planted in preceding fall.